

October 2007

Kansas City - Top in Expensive Commutes (see column 4)

**RTA
 Transit Calendar – 2007**

Smart Moves Update Citizen Engagement Schedule – Phase I

Each event will last approximately 90 minutes

October 1, 6:30 p.m.
 Central Resource Library (Johnson County)
 9875 West 87th Street, Overland Park

October 2, 6:30 p.m.
 Blue Valley Library
 9000 West 151st Street, Overland Park

October 4, 6:00 p.m.
 Olathe Library (downtown)
 201 East Park, Olathe

October 10, 3:30 p.m.
 Southtown Council
 6814 Troost, Kansas City, MO

October 11, 5:00 p.m.
 Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council
 3700 Woodland, Kansas City, MO

October 15, 7:00 p.m.
 Lee's Summit City Hall
 220 S.E. Green Street, Lee's Summit

October 16, 6:00 p.m.
 Downtown Library
 14 West 10th Street, Kansas City, MO

October 17, 6:00 p.m.
 Roeland Park City Hall
 4600 West 51st Street, Roeland Park, KS

October 18, 11:30 a.m.
 MainCor
 3215 Main, Suite 200, Kansas City, MO

Additional meetings in the following areas have yet to be scheduled:

Parkville; Village West; Kansas City, KS; Midtown/State Avenue (UG); Leavenworth; Lee's Summit; Blue Springs; Raytown; Independence; Liberty; Gladstone; Metro North and Northeast Johnson County.

**RTA
 Transit in Metropolitan Kansas City: Ideas & Solutions**

One Economy Corporation (www.one-economy.com) invites Kansas City Regional Transit Alliance members, the community-at-large, policy experts and public officials to be part of a local and national dialogue about public transit in Kansas City and join us for the launch of a Kansas City region focused 247townhall.org (www.kc.247townhall.org) website. One Economy is inviting the citizens of metropolitan Kansas City to engage in this long-term discussion in particular, because they have unique insight into what we should be doing as a community to address the region's concerns on public transit today and in the future.

This local online town hall discussion will focus on problems and the solutions for Kansas City public transit and enable people to have a voice in their community on this important issue. The KC.247townhall.org interactive website also allows an online audience to consume high-quality content created by One Economy and its local partners, such as the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority and Kansas City Public Library, and use a special voting information section to learn about the voting process, become more informed and engaged in upcoming ballot issues or initiatives.

On June 22, 2007, One Economy launched the 247townhall.org civic engagement and social media application. 247Townhall.org is focused on helping technologically-isolated Internet users increase their awareness of and engagement in important social, political, and economic issues, and advocate for positive change in their communities. 247Townhall.org is a website designed by One Economy to offer innovative media tools to its target audience and further realize its mission of maximizing the potential of technology to help people improve their lives and connect them to the economic mainstream. The site features a plethora of user content-generated tools including live webcasting of town hall type meetings; enabling users to create written content and engage others on important issues; providing how-to-content on voting to inform and inspire; and an "open mic" section that allows users to record themselves right from their computer's browser.

247townhall.org is a unique civic engagement website. It uses technology to make it easy for people to share ideas, discuss topics and learn about issues. 247townhall.org will also host live news-making events from time to time. The initial launch of a Kansas City area 247townhall.org is dedicated to transit issues, but could be expanded to support a boarder online discussion of multiple issues or priorities.

For more information contact: Donovan Mouton, Community Partnership Director, One Economy - Kansas City Region - 816.278.3017

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TRANSIT NEWS

October 2007

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CITIZENS FOR EFFECTIVE,
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RTA

Kansas City-Top in Expensive Commutes

Recent research has shown that Kansas City is among the most expensive cities in the country in which to commute. Our transportation costs are outstripping our costs of housing. According to Bruce Katz, director of the Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program, "Many families are making a brutal tradeoff between buying homes at reasonable prices and the need to purchase and maintain two or three cars to carry out the necessities of daily life. This is what I call "sticker shock of sprawl". The relationship is between lower cost housing in the suburbs and high transportation costs. The research combines the cost of housing and transportation. On average, working families spend 57% on this combination with roughly 28% housing and 29% transportation. In KC we average 56% for the combined cost but only 23% for housing and a whopping 33% for transportation. That puts us at the head of the pack with Tampa and Pittsburgh. The reason for this is Metro Kansas City is the most stretched out city in the nation and there are few alternatives to cars. For more information read Bruce Katz's recent presentation in Kansas City at the Housing Matters Forum in KCMO, highlighting transportation as a cost of housing (copy of speech and video here): <http://housingkc.com/events.php?ID=30>

Also read an August article at Forbes.com dealing with the same issue.

http://www.forbes.com/2007/08/07/commute-housing-expensive-forbeslife-cx_mw_0807realestate.html

RTA

November Newsletter:

Update on K-10 Commuter Bus Service

Newsletter Editor: Greg Lever

RTA

Smart Moves Update Citizen Engagement

The first of 25 sessions took place at the office of Northland Neighborhoods on Wed, Sept 12. Being a Northlander, I attended along with about 20 others. The crowd included working and retired men and women, some of whom were bus riders. Although MARC staff were there to set up and lend support, the session was facilitated by one of the trained *oneKCvoice* facilitators. The format was conversational, but followed a predetermined script assuring that every engagement will discuss the same items - even though participants at each one will probably not have the same responses.

Margie Richcreek, RTA Board Chair

RTA

This is the last printed edition of the RTA newsletter

The RTA has decided that this is our last printed newsletter because of postage and printing costs.

We will, however, continue to produce the newsletter and send a link to the electronic version of it via email. This link will take you to the exact page of our website where the newsletter may be found. You may also browse the RTA website at any time to view past editions of our newsletters.

If you currently receive this in hard copy and would like to receive it electronically, please contact us and provide us with your email address.

We thank you and hope that you will continue to remain informed and engaged in the public transit issues of our region.